

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 80 without prejudice.

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Allowed) In an apparatus for sealing a passage through tissue which communicates with a body lumen, the improvement comprising:

- an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
- an opening in the proximal region of the elongate shaft,
- a plug member disposed on the distal end of the elongate shaft, the elongate shaft having a cross-section that is substantially smaller than a cross-section of the plug member, and
- an opening in the distal region of said plug,

wherein said plug member and said elongate shaft have a position indicating lumen therein which extends from the opening in the distal region of said plug to the opening in the proximal region of said elongate shaft.

40. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the plug member is at least partially tapered at its distal end.

41-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising at least one of a hemostasis-promoting material and an infection-resistant material secured to a distal end of the plug member.

45. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the plug member is releasable from the elongate shaft.

46. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the elongate shaft comprises an actuator for releasing the plug member from the distal end of the elongate shaft.

47. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising cooperating connectors on the distal end of the elongate shaft and on the plug member for releasably securing the plug member to the distal end of the elongate shaft.

48-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the plug member comprises bioabsorbable material.

53. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the plug member is substantially permanently attached to the distal end of the elongate shaft.

54. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the elongate shaft is provided with a seal for selectively sealing the lumen.

55. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the seal is disposed on the proximal end of the elongate shaft.

56-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Allowed) In an apparatus for sealing a passage through tissue which communicates with a body lumen, the improvement comprising:

- an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
- an opening in the proximal region of the elongate shaft,
- a plug member substantially permanently attached to the distal end of the elongate shaft,

and

- an opening in the distal region of said plug,

wherein said plug member and said elongate shaft have a position indicating lumen therein which extends from the opening in the distal region of said plug to the opening in the proximal region of the elongate shaft.

61. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the plug member is at least partially tapered at its distal end.

62. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the plug member comprises a cavity in its distal end.

63. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising at least one of a hemostasis-promoting material and an infection-resistant material disposed in the cavity.

64. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the material comprises intestinal submucosa.

65. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 60, further comprising at least one of a hemostasis-promoting material and an infection-resistant material secured to a distal end of the plug member.

66. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the plug member comprises bioabsorbable material.

67. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the elongate shaft is provided with a seal for selectively sealing the lumen.

68. (Allowed) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the seal is disposed on the proximal end of the elongate shaft.

69-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Cancelled)

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Allowed) In an apparatus for sealing a passage through tissue which communicates with a body lumen, the improvement comprising:

an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end;

an opening in the proximal region of the elongate shaft,

a plug member substantially permanently attached to the distal end of the elongate shaft, the plug member comprising a helical thread on its outer surface, the elongate member having a cross section that is substantially smaller than a cross section of the plug member, and an opening in the distal region of said plug wherein said plug member and said elongate shaft have a position indicating lumen therein which extends from the opening in the distal region of said plug to the opening in the proximal region of said elongate shaft.